

REMARKS

The Office Action dated, November 26, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully noted. From the Summary page, claims 1-17 were pending. Claims 14-17 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 1 was rejected. Claims 2-13 are allowed. The Drawings filed June 13, 2005 have been accepted. The Information Disclosure Statements filed June 13, 2005 and October 29, 2008 have been considered.

By this Response, claim 1 and withdrawn claims 14-17 have been canceled. Therefore, the anticipation rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of JP 09-017722 and 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Yoshihara et al. (US 6,527,860) as to claim 1 are rendered moot.

Since independent claim 2 and claims 3-13, dependent thereon, have been allowed, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be placed in immediate condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objection and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 033082 M 256.

Respectfully submitted,

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